

DYNAMITE #2

CULLEN BUNN

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MARCO LESKO

# THE Shadow®



**THE**

# **Shadow®**

Previously in the Shadow!\* Secrets of the Shadow's past were revealed as the Dark Avenger met Master Magician Harry Houdini! The Shadow infiltrated a sanctum of an esoteric society of murderous magicians who were hellbent on escaping the ultimate trap--death itself! In order to thwart their plans, all of the Shadow's skills were tested as he evaded twisted traps and solved spellbinding puzzles. Now, the sect have again turned their malevolent focus once again towards The Shadow!

\*The events of this story take place after The Shadow #0!

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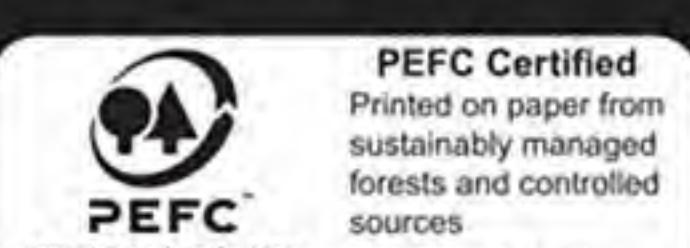
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## MACHPELAH CEMETERY.

IT HAS BEEN TEN YEARS SINCE I LOST YOU, OLD FRIEND.

BUT NEVER HAS THE PAIN OF THAT LOSS BEEN MORE PROFOUND THAN IT IS NOW.

WHEN YOU BUILT THIS MONUMENT YOU KNEW IT WOULD STAND THE TEST OF TIME.

I AM SURE YOU ASSUMED THE *SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS*--A GROUP YOU HELPED TO FOUND--WOULD LAST AS WELL.

BUT THIS BUSINESS WITH THE *LAST ILLUSION...*

...WHAT THEY SEEK...

...AND WHAT THEY ARE WILLING TO DO...

...HAS PROVEN THAT THE MEN WHO WERE ONCE YOUR COLLEAGUES...

...ARE NOW MONSTERS.

THEY WOULD TEAR DOWN ALL OF CIVILIZATION IF IT SUITED THEIR DESIRES.

AND SO JUSTICE MUST BE SERVED.

BUT WHERE WAS JUSTICE WHEN YOU WERE TAKEN?

I TRACKED THE MAN WHO STRUCK THE KILLING BLOW.

BUT THERE WAS NO CRIME THERE.

THERE WAS A PAIN WITHIN THAT MAN THAT TOLD ME ALL I NEEDED TO KNOW.

HE MEANT YOU NO MALICE AND HAS LIVED WITH HIS GUILT ALL THESE YEARS.

HE HAS LIVED WITH THE KNOWLEDGE THAT HE TOOK A GREAT MAN FROM THE WORLD.

AS LONG AS THIS NEW SOCIETY EXISTS, I WILL ALWAYS HAVE EYES ON HER.

BESS IS SAFE.

YOU'LL HAVE TO WAIT FOR HER A LITTLE LONGER.

I HAVE MANY AGENTS, AND THEY KEEP THE VIGIL WHEN I CANNOT.

THE SOCIETY HAS SCATTERED. THEY HIDE LIKE THE VERMIN THEY ARE.

BUT THE DARKNESS WILL NOT PROTECT THEM FROM ME.

THEY SHALL Taint YOUR LEGACY NO LONGER.

THERE WAS NONE TO BE HAD.

THEIR DAYS  
ARE NUMBERED.

THE CHARLATAN  
MADAME  
SETIENNE MUST  
BE DEALT WITH.

HAD  
THE SHADOW  
NOT SHOWN  
UP TO ROUST  
US ALL...

...THERE'S NO TELLING  
HOW LONG SHE  
WOULD HAVE STRUNG  
US ALONG WITH THAT  
FAKE SÉANCE.

SHE WILL BE  
DEALT WITH, MIS  
HERMANOS.

I FEEL PERSONALLY  
RESPONSIBLE AS IT  
WAS I WHO CONTRACTED  
HER SERVICES.

THE NAME  
MADAME SETIENNE  
SHALL NEVER AGAIN  
BE UTTERED AFTER  
THIS WEEKEND.

NO ONE  
BLAMES YOU,  
MIGUEL.

THE SEARCH FOR  
THE LAST ILLUSION IS  
ALL-CONSUMING.

WE SHALL WALK  
MANY PATHS  
IN OUR QUEST...

...EVEN THOUGH  
MANY OF THOSE  
SHALL LEAD TO  
DEAD-ENDS.

LET US  
HOPE NOT.



DO NOT MUDDY  
MY REPUTATION WITH  
THE INCOMPETENCE  
OF OTHERS.

THESE CRATES  
ARE TO BE TENDED  
TO WITH THE  
UTMOST CARE.

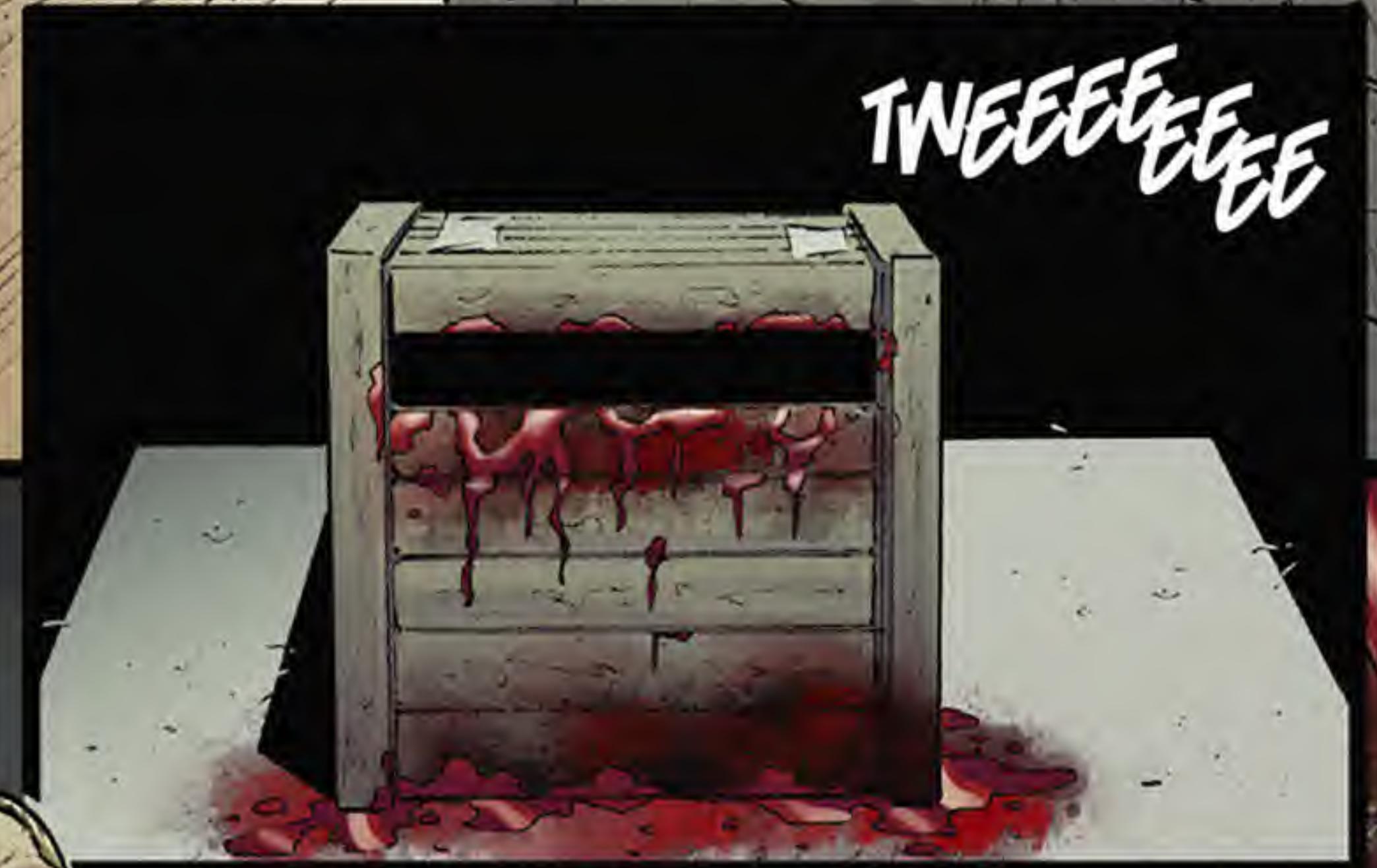
AM I  
UNDERSTOOD?

I AM  
PLACING MY  
TRUST IN  
YOU, FRITZ.

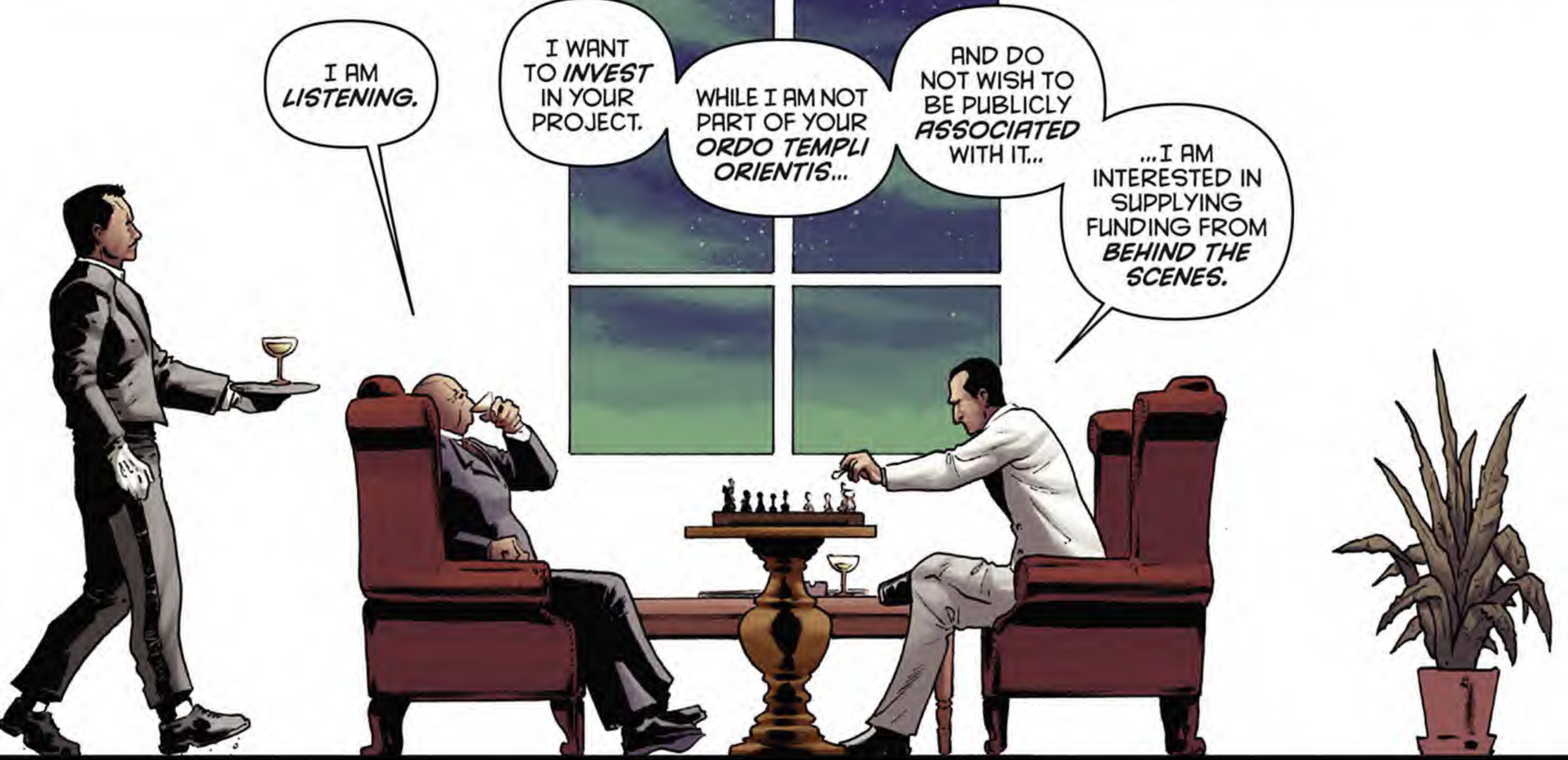
THESE  
OTHERS--

--WELL...

THEY'LL  
LEARN FOR  
THEMSELVES,  
YES?



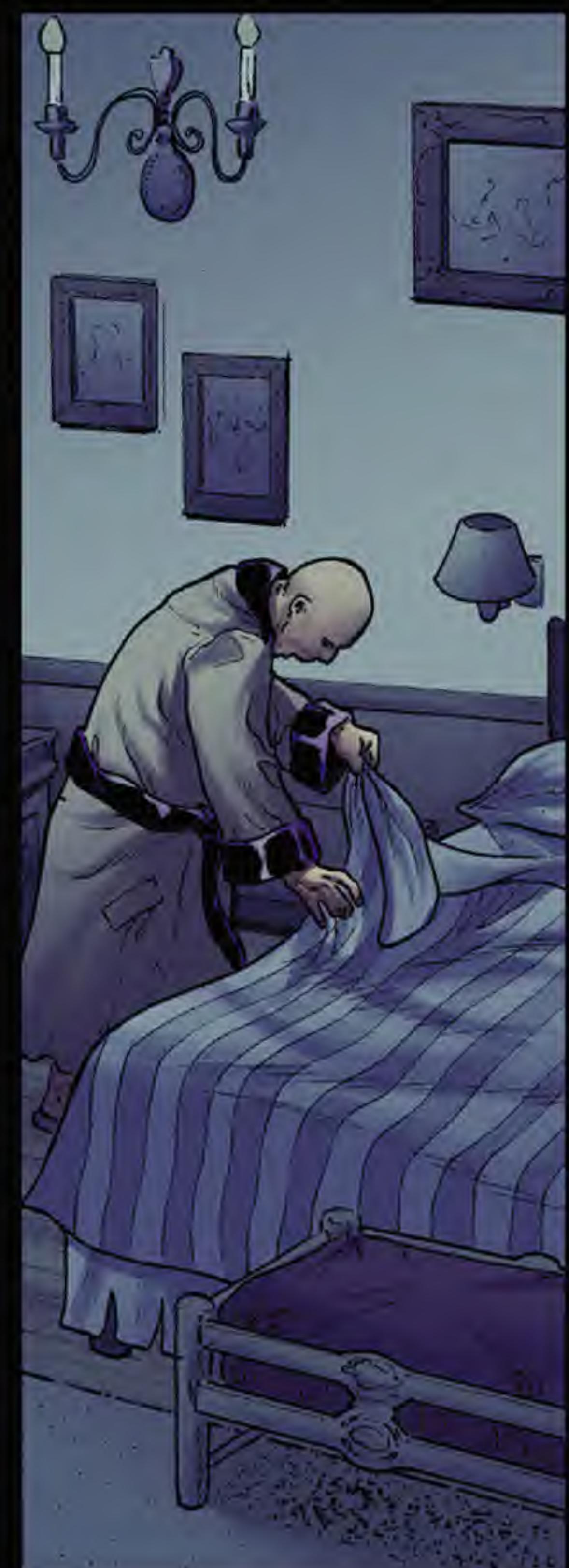








## HEDGEMONT HOTEL.

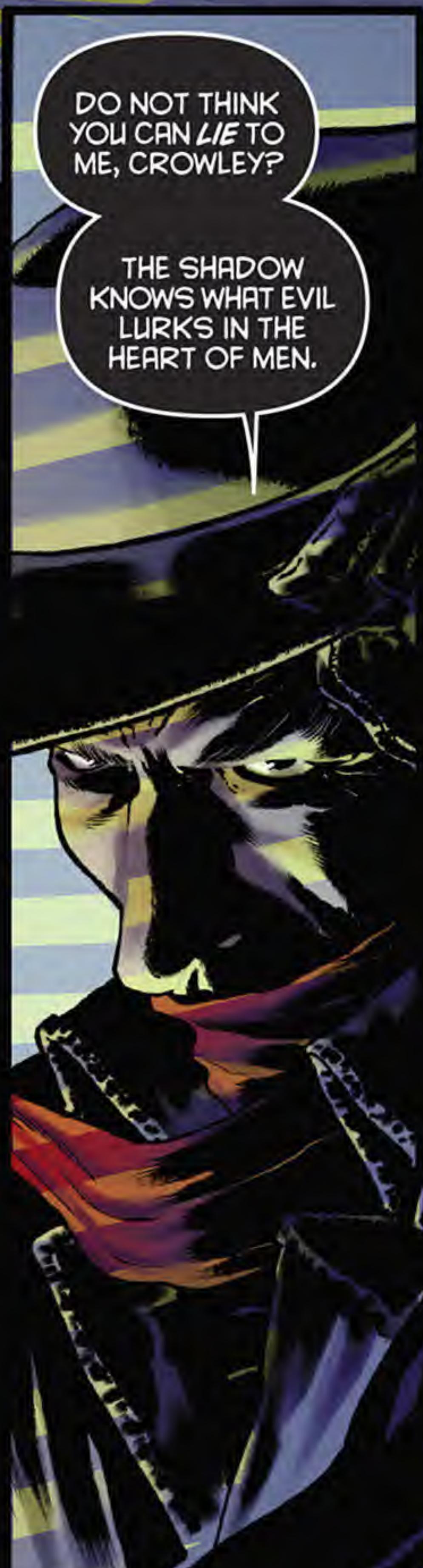




YOU KNOW OF THE SOCIETY OF UNITED MAGICIANS.

YOU KNOW OF THEIR MURDEROUS SCHEMES.

AND YOU WILL REVEAL ALL TO--THE SHADOW!



"THE LAST  
ILLUSION WAS  
THE WORK OF  
ONE MAN..."

"...VARDELL  
GOSCELIN...  
A 14th CENTURY  
SCHOLAR,  
SCIENTIST, AND  
MAGICKIAN."

"HIS EARLIEST DAYS  
ARE A MYSTERY..."

"...BUT THERE ARE THOSE  
WHO BELIEVE HE WAS  
RELATED BY BLOOD TO  
THE DEVIL HIMSELF."

"AND IF GOSCELIN  
WAS THE DEVIL'S  
KIN, HE STILL  
SHOWED SIGNS OF  
GOD'S MERCY."

"HIS REPUTATION  
GREW DURING A  
TIME OF GREAT  
DESPERATION."

"THE POWER TO  
HEAL, THOUGH,  
APPEARED HIM FOR  
ONLY SO LONG."

"HE SOUGHT  
DEEPER  
RESERVOIRS  
OF MAGIC..."

"AND EVEN  
HIS DEEDS  
WERE SEEN AS  
HEROIC..."

"...HIS EVERY ACTION  
WAS INTENDED TO  
STRENGTHEN HIS  
ESOTERIC WISDOM."

"I DOUBT HE  
EVEN REALIZED WHEN  
HE SOMETIMES  
HELPED OTHERS."



"THE POWER TO HEAL, THOUGH, APPEARED HIM FOR ONLY SO LONG."

"HIS APPETITE FOR FORBIDDEN KNOWLEDGE GREW... UNTIL HE WAS STARVING!"

"HE SOUGHT DEEPER RESERVOIRS OF MAGIC..."

"...AND HIS POWERS SWELLED."

"AND EVEN HIS DEEDS WERE SEEN AS HEROIC..."

"...HIS EVERY ACTION WAS INTENDED TO STRENGTHEN HIS ESOTERIC WISDOM."

"I DOUBT HE EVEN REALIZED WHEN HE SOMETIMES HELPED OTHERS."

"OTHERS SAW HIS BURGEONING TALENTS..."

"BUT GOSCELIN HAD GROWN GREEDY AND COVETOUS..."

"...AND THEY DEMANDED THAT HE SHARE HIS SECRETS OR BE THRICE-DAMNED."

"...AND HE WOULD NOT BE BULLIED."

"HE MADE SHORT WORK OF ANYONE WHO STOOD AGAINST HIM."

"BUT EVEN THE DEATH OF HIS ENEMIES WAS NOT ASSURANCE ENOUGH."

"HE CRAFTED A SPELL IN HIS FINAL DAYS... A SPELL TO--LITERALLY--END ALL SPELLS."

"IT HID THE NATURE OF MAGIC... BURIED IT DEEP SO THAT NO MAN COULD WORK TRUE MIRACLES EVER AGAIN."



THIS IS  
THE KNOWLEDGE  
THE SOCIETY OF  
UNITED MAGICIANS  
DESIRSES.

THEY ARE  
TRYING TO  
TRANSCEND  
DEATH.

THEY BELIEVE  
THAT IF THEY CAN  
FIND GOSCELIN  
IN THE SPIRIT  
WORLD...

...THEY CAN  
COMPEL HIM  
TO SHARE HIS  
SECRETS.

THEY'VE MADE  
OTHER OFFERS TO  
THOSE WHO ARE  
REACHING THEIR  
LIFE'S END.

THEY'VE ASKED THE  
AGING TO BE THEIR  
AMBASSADORS IN  
THE HEREAFTER.

SO... THAT'S  
WHY THEY  
ACCOSTED  
HOUDINI'S  
WIDOW.

THEY BELIEVED  
HOUDINI UNCOVERED  
THE TRUTH OF THE  
LAST ILLUSION...

... THAT HIS  
SPIRIT DID VISIT  
HIS GRIEVING  
WIFE...

YOU WOULDN'T  
BELIEVE THE  
PROMISES  
THEY'VE MADE...

... AND THEY  
HOPED TO FORCE  
HER TO DIVULGE  
WHAT HE HAD  
TOLD HER.

... THE VILE  
CARROTS  
THEY'VE  
DANGLED.

AND WHEN THE ELDERLY FAIL THEM, THEY'LL TURN TO SUICIDE.

AND WHEN THAT DOESN'T WORK...

MURDER.

HOUDINI FOUND SOMETHING BEYOND THIS REALM.

HE PASSED ON A MESSAGE FEW HAVE HEARD.

WHAT HE FOUND IS BEYOND THE UNDERSTANDING OF MORTAL MEN...

...BUT THE SHADOW KNOWS.

YOU MUST UNDERSTAND.

ALL THEIR LIVES, THEY'VE CHASED MIRACLES.

THEY'RE DESPERATE NOW.

DESPERATE TO PROVE THAT THE WONDERS THEY BELIEVE IN ARE MORE THAN LIES.

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE MAGICIANS?

IF YOU'VE MADE ENEMIES OF THEM...

...THEY'LL SET TRAPS FOR YOU.

BUT TAKE THIS ADDRESS AND BE GONE FROM MY SIGHT!

YOUR TIME IN AMERICA IS DONE, CROWLEY.

GO... BEFORE THE SOCIETY REALIZES YOU WERE HERE.

AND TAKE THIS KNOWLEDGE WITH YOU.

1408 HILL AVENUE.



IT SEEMS  
DOUBTFUL I'LL  
FIND WHAT I  
SEEK HERE.

PERHAPS  
CROWLEY WAS  
MISLEADING ME.



SENDING ME  
ON A WILD GOOSE  
CHASE TO HOBBLE  
MY EFFORTS.

ALTHOUGH...

...THESE LOOK  
PROMISING.

BLOOD.

THE  
SMELL...

...NOT  
DISSIMILAR  
TO...

...WET  
MONKEY?

RRR  
RR





TO BE CONTINUED!

# DYNAMITE DISPATCH

® SEPTEMBER 2015



## NEXT ISSUE:

A cabal of vile magicians have recruited an assassin to eliminate their enemies. At the top of the list--the Shadow! Meanwhile, more secrets of the Last Illusion are revealed.

## DYNAMITE IN THE NEWS

### WRITER WARREN ELLIS DEBUTS THE ALL-NEW JAMES BOND COMIC BOOK SERIES WITH ARTIST JASON MASTERS

Dynamite proudly announces that fan-favorite author Warren Ellis will be writing the James Bond ongoing comic book series. James Bond is scheduled for release in November 2015, featuring interior artwork by Jason Masters (Batman Incorporated). In the series, Bond returns to London after a mission of vengeance in Helsinki, to take up the workload of a fallen 00 Section agent... but something evil is moving through the back streets, and sinister plans are being laid for Bond in Berlin.

The news of the high-profile author's involvement follows Dynamite's announcement of their partnership with Ian Fleming Publications Ltd. (IFPL), the Fleming family company that owns and administers the literary copyright of Ian Fleming's published works. Launching their James Bond line with a writer of exemplary skill and reputation has been a priority for Dynamite, and Warren Ellis' stewardship will guarantee all the hallmarks of high-octane action and international intrigue that exemplify the franchise.

"Ian Fleming's James Bond is an icon, and it's a delight to tell visual narratives with the original, brutal, damaged Bond of the books," says Warren Ellis.

Great-nephew of Ian Fleming, Diggory Laycock says, "We were thrilled when Warren agreed to write the first story in this exciting new chapter of literary James Bond. Warren's style is gritty, dark, and unique, and we can't wait to see James Bond embroiled in an adventure of his creation."

"Warren Ellis is one of the most brilliant writers of the 21st century, not just in comics but across all media," says Nick Barrucci, CEO and Publisher of Dynamite. "We met with Warren and everyone at IFPL, and Warren's passion for the novels showed. He really is the perfect writer for Bond, and I can't express how excited we are that he is tackling the ongoing series. This will be James Bond unlike anything you've ever seen before, true to Ian Fleming's source material yet bursting all preconceptions of what a Bond story should be."

## HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS | SEPTEMBER

